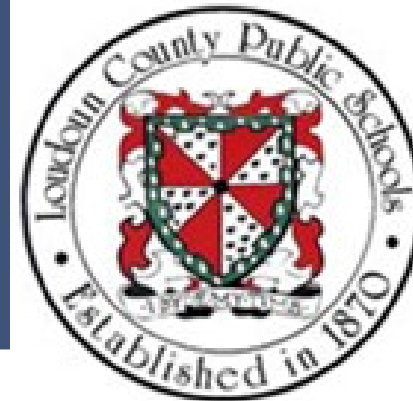


SEAC Special Education Advisory Committee

Policies, Practices and Procedures Subcommittee

**Special Education Draft Policy 5310
Personnel Development Policy 5-53
Student Eligibility/Placement Procedures Policy 5-54
Classroom Observations Guidelines - Private Service
Providers/Professionals**





Special Education Draft Policy 5310 Review, Findings and Recommendations

Special Education Policy:

Recommendation 3: Add language to the policy to allow IEP amendments without convening an IEP meeting.

At the March 6 SEAC meeting, many speakers preferred not to allow IEP amendments w/o a meeting.

LCPS indicated that they already changed procedures, and now do not allow IEP amendments w/o a meeting.
(SEAC was neither consulted nor notified, an ongoing concern)

Vote to adopt the subcommittee's recommendation failed.





Special Education Draft Policy 5310 Review, Findings and Recommendations

Recommendation: The School Board should adopt the draft policy 5310.

LCPS previously amended the draft policy 5310 to include 3 of the 4 recommendations presented by the policy subcommittee.

LCPS additionally amended draft policy 5310 to add:

“If a child’s IEP needs amendment after a child’s annual IEP team meeting for the school year, and IEP team meeting shall be scheduled to make the changes.”

These revisions address our concerns.





SEAC Recommendations AND voting



Recommendation

- The School Board should adopt the draft policy 5310.

Voting





Policy 5-53 Personnel Development **Policy 5-54 Student Eligibility/Placement Procedures**

Policy 5-53: Personnel Development

Director of SPED shall establish and implement training for gen. ed. and SPED staff.

Policy 5-54: Student Eligibility/Placement Procedures

Restates initial eligibility and school system transfer procedures from IDEA.

LCPS staff proposes to delete these policies.

Although these were not announced on the subcommittee's agenda, with the school year ending and in the interests of time, the subcommittee reviewed these policies.





Policy 5-53 Personnel Development Policy 5-54 Student Eligibility/Placement Procedures

Policy 5-53: Personnel Development

Recommendation: The School Board should delete policy 5-53.

Policy 5-54: Student Eligibility/Placement Procedures

Recommendation: The School Board should delete policy 5-54.

The policy subcommittee was unable to find good reasons to retain these policies. Where the subcommittee had concerns, policies were not the right way to address them. The subcommittee recommended that we agree with the staff proposal to delete and that SEAC does not need to spend additional time on them.





SEAC Recommendations AND voting



Recommendations

- The School Board should delete policy 5-53
- The School Board should delete policy 5-54

Voting





Classroom Observations Guidelines – Private Service Providers/Professionals

Review of Findings: Classroom Observations Guidelines – Private Service Providers/Professionals

The policy subcommittee reviewed the draft guidelines and determined that it does not meet the needs of Special Education students.





Classroom Observations Guidelines – Private Service Providers/Professionals

Identified Community Concerns Directly Related to the Guidelines

- Classroom observations should be a policy, not a guideline
- One consistent set of rules between schools and between Special and General Education
- Guideline #1 – Fewer days would be more reasonable and less constraining of schedules
- Guideline #6 – “Interference” should be clearly defined
- Guideline #7 – Need to clarify. Add clause “which could be the same day or following the visit, if so arranged mutually”
- Guideline #11 – Strong opposition in feedback. Conflicts with professional ethics codes and licensing regulations; fear of retaliation if professionals don’t comply with this “request.”





Classroom Observations Guidelines – Private Service Providers/Professionals

Recommendation 1: The School Board should develop and adopt a uniform policy for classroom observation by outside providers, professionals, and parents

How our schools are open to outside providers and professionals is truly a policy decision and needs to strike a fair balance between stakeholder interests.

The policy should apply consistently across schools and for all students.

This should not be able to be changed based on the decision and direction of an administrator and without public participation.

Discretion should be replaced with clear rules to prevent discrimination.





Classroom Observations Guidelines – Private Service Providers/Professionals

Recommendation 2: Replace guideline #11 with an offer of a 15 minute review after the observation

Guideline #11 drew strong concern and opposition from the community, the subcommittee, and from School Board members.

LCPS staff has revised the wording to make it sound like an optional request, however, community feedback leads the subcommittee to doubt that it will be perceived this way in practice by the school or by providers.

The subcommittee concluded that this guideline is likely to harm collaboration and relationships no matter how it's worded and should be removed.

Professionals reported Fairfax County allows time for a short feedback session after an observation by a private provider or parent.





SEAC Recommendations - Classroom Observations Guidelines - Private Service Providers/Professionals



Recommendations

- The School Board should develop and adopt a uniform policy for classroom observation by outside providers, professionals, and parents.
- Replace guideline #11 with an offer of a 15 minute review after the observation

Voting



Thank you!

